

Transparency Act of 2007, H.R. 556, of which I am also an original co-sponsor.

Last year, the proposed sale of the P&O firm—which manages terminal operations at major East Coast ports, including the Port of Baltimore—to a company controlled by the government of Dubai raised several significant issues to the attention of Congress.

In addition to making many aware for the first time that operations in American seaports are frequently managed by foreign interests, the sale brought renewed attention to the significant gaps in our port security regime.

Further, the proposed deal revealed the inadequacy of our systems for assessing the security risks that the increasingly global nature of business ownership relationships may pose—not just in the port management industry but in almost all critical industries in the U.S.

Fulfilling our unwavering commitment to the security of our homeland, the Democratic leadership has moved systematically to address the security concerns raised by the proposed sale of P&O to Dubai.

The first piece of legislation the House considered and passed this year—H.R. 1—would close an enormous gap in port security by requiring the examination of all shipping containers bound for the U.S.

The bill before us today, H.R. 556, will reform the processes of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to ensure that this Committee casts greater scrutiny on transactions involving entities owned by foreign individuals or governments—and to ensure that Congress receives the information it needs to oversee this process.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I understand the critical need to balance security and economics—particularly at our ports.

However, we must ensure that the CFIUS process—which is as much a part of our homeland security system as any scanner or radiation detector—is adequate to ensure that the implications of all transactions involving foreign entities are fully understood and that only those investments that pose no national security risks are allowed to move forward.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 556.

CELLULOSIC ETHANOL TECHNOLOGY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor two companies in Florida's District 16 who are on the leading edge of cellulosic ethanol technology and encouraging the use of crops other than corn to help meet the energy needs of our country—Citrus Energy, LLP and Alico, Inc.

Recently, each of these companies was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture in recognition of their efforts to establish a meaningful renewable energy industry.

With their state grant, Citrus Energy, based in Clewiston, Florida, plans to convert citrus peel, pulp, seeds and membrane into 4 million gallons of ethanol a year. I commend Citrus

Energy President Dave Stewart for his commitment to finding alternative energy sources and for looking to by-products that are abundantly available to help meet our country's needs.

Similarly, Alico, Inc. located in Labelle, Florida, plans to use its grant to build a 7.5 million-gallon-a-year plant to produce ethanol and electricity. Alico intends to use high-fiber sugar cane and agriculture wastes, such as hurricane debris to make ethanol. I also commend Alico President John Alexander for his commitment to helping this great country find alternative energy sources through agricultural by-products.

It is exciting that both of these companies have recognized the potential resources that Florida can contribute to their efforts, and I am particularly pleased that they both have chosen to locate their new energy plants in District 16. Their endeavors will provide economic benefits to these communities and will provide substantial environmental and economic benefits for our entire country.

With the price of corn at \$4.00 per bushel, it is imperative that American companies recognize the importance of diversifying our ethanol portfolio and the potential that our American farmers can contribute to those efforts. These two Florida companies are just the beginning of what I hope will become a burgeoning industry throughout our great State of Florida and our country. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that adequate funding is provided for the research and production of bio-fuels and alternatives to corn ethanol.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2007 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2007 Valor Awards in the Herndon Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Senior Sergeant Jerry S. Keys, Corporal Robert A. Galpin, Police Officer First Class Damien C. Austin; the Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class Edward E. Stapleton, Detective Lisa A. Kara, Police Officer First Class E. Brian Hamilton, Police Officer First Class Justin P. Dyer.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the

citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR PUERTO RICANS

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, at the end of the Spanish American War in 1898, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States and became a territory under the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It was not until 1917, by virtue of the passage of the Jones Act by Congress, that people born in Puerto Rico were granted the privilege of becoming citizens of this great Nation.

It was on March 2, 1917, 90 years ago, that Puerto Ricans became U.S. citizens. Tomorrow we celebrate the anniversary of that historic occasion by re-affirming our love for our citizenship, like our forbearers have been doing for 90 years. We cherish our U.S. citizenship dearly, for the same basic principles and rights that have made this Nation great, among which are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

We, as American citizens, share a common belief and admiration for all the principles and lights embodied in our Founding Documents and espoused by our Founding Fathers. This is the common bond that unites us with our fellow citizens.

We have honored our citizenship for these 90 years by making major contributions to our great Nation. We have distinguished ourselves in the arts, the sciences, and sports; but most important of all, Puerto Rican men and women have served with distinction and valor in every battlefield in which our Nation has been involved, from World War I to the current War on Terror, defending our valued principles of freedom and democracy around the world, from Europe to the Pacific, from Korea to Vietnam to the Middle East.

Since 1917, Puerto Ricans have established themselves as an integral component of American society, adding to the fabric of local communities across the United States.

Like most Americans, the nearly 4 million U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico patriotically cherish their American citizenship, and value the opportunity that comes with our longstanding political relationship with the United States. This relationship provides Puerto Ricans a sense of belonging to a community that transcends the geographic limitations of our Island; it is our common thread, what binds us. After 90 years, however, we still have neither the full nor the equal rights and duties of U.S. citizenship that our fellow Americans enjoy in the 50 states.

Even though American citizenship was conferred 90 years ago, to this day Americans in Puerto Rico have not been afforded the opportunity for self-determination regarding our future political status by a federally-mandated plebiscite. American citizens in Puerto Rico continue to lack full voting representation in Congress, voting rights in federal elections, equal civil rights, full democracy at the national level, and a formal process to express